

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 AF-10 NIC-01 RSR-01 EUR-25 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ARA-16 EB-11 ACDA-19 SCI-06 COA-02

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R 171100Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9905

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2079

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE

SUBJECT: NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE (NAC)

REF: STATE 151600; STATE 159468

1. SUMMARY: MDFA OFFICIAL HAS TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER PRG AND GRUNK HAVE ALREADY BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND ALGIERS NAC AND SIHANOUK IS EXPECTED TO ADDRESS CONFERENCE ON SUBJECT OF VIET-NAM. OFFICIAL BELIEVES ISSUE OF SEATING DELEGATIONS IS UNLIKELY TO BE RAISED BUT IF IT WERE IT WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT. PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE WILL ATTEND. SRI LANKA HOPES TO NAIL DOWN ROLE OF HOST TO NEXT NAC SUMMIT, WHICH MAY OCCUR IN 1976. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSION AUGUST 16, MDFA OFFICIAL FOR WEST ASIA/AFRICA (JAYAKODDY), WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GSL PREPARATIONS FOR NAC, SAID PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE IS EXPECTED TO LEAD SRI LANKA DELEGATION TO ALGIERS. OTHER MEMBERS WOULD BE FELIX DIAS BANDARANAIKE, MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND JUSTICE, WHO WOULD BE ACTING IN ROLE OF FOREIGN MINISTER; BERNARD

TILLAKARATNA, DIRECTOR, ASIA/AFRICA IN
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MDFA; AND JOHN GUNARATNE,

CEYLONESE FIRST SECRETARY IN CAIRO.

3. ON QUESTION OF REPRESENTATION, JAYAKODDY SAID INVITATIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN ISSUED TO FRG AND GRUNK TO PARTICIPATE IN NAC AND THAT SIHANOUK IS EXPECTED TO ATTEND AND TO PROVIDE CONFERENCE WITH "FEW CHOICE WORDS" ON VIET-NAM. WHEN ASKED ABOUT CONSENSUS PROBLEM, JAYAKODDY SAID FEELING IS THAT MATTER HAD BEEN SETTLED AT GEORGETOWN. IF ANYONE WANTED TO RAISE OBJECTION, CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN (ALGERIA) WOULD HAVE MEANS TO SETTLE QUESTION AT OWN SATISFACTION, THUS MAKING OUTCOME FOREGONE CONCLUSION. THREAT OF WALK-OUT IF GRUNK AND PRG ARE SEATED IS LIKELY TO HAVE NO EFFECT, HE SAID, SINCE MAJORITY WAS CONVINCED IT WAS RIGHT.

4. RE NEW MEMBERSHIP, BANGLADESH AND BHUTAN ARE APPLYING FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP; ARGENTINA IS APPLYING EITHER AS MEMBER OR AS OBSERVER; AND PANAMA IS REQUESTING OBSERVER STATUS. ALL OF THESE WILL BE WELCOMED, JAYAKODDY SAID.

5. ON AGENDA, JAYAKODDY SAID INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SITUATION WOULD BE FIRST TOPIC AND DISCUSSION WAS LIKELY TO CENTER ON ROLE OF NON-ALIGNED IN CHANGED WORLD SITUATION RESULTING FROM DETENTE BETWEEN US AND USSR AND FROM EMERGENCE OF PRC AS MAJOR POWER. UNDER THIS HEADING, GSL WOULD RAISE QUESTION OF INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE PROPOSAL, WHICH IT EXPECTS WILL RECEIVE WARM WELCOME IN THIS FORUM. NEXT AGENDA ITEM WOULD BE COLONIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM WHICH WILL GENERATE CONSIDERABLE HEAT. GSL BELIEVES EMPHASIS WILL BE ON AFRICA, WITH ATTACKS FOCUSED ON PORTUGAL AND RHODESIA. OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS SPANISH SAHARA AND PUERTO RICO ARE LIKELY TO BE TOUCHED ON ONLY IN PASSING. GSL BELIEVES ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG MEMBERS OF NON-ALIGNED GROUP WOULD ALSO TAKE PROMINENT PLACE ON AGENDA. WHEN ASKED WHETHER DISCUSSION WAS LIKELY TO BE IN CONTEXT OF INCREASING ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN NAC MEMBERS OR IN CONTEXT OF FORMING PRESSURE GROUP VIS-A-VIS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, JAYAKODDY SAID HE BELIEVES LATTER WOULD BE MAIN EMPHASIS.

6. LAW OF THE SEA ALSO ON AGENDA BUT APPARENTLY
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AS LAST ITEM
AND GSL FEELS LITTLE TIME WILL BE DEVOTED TO IT. IT EXPECTS ISSUE WILL BE DEALT WITH ONLY IN BROADEST TERMS WITH NO ATTEMPT TO REACH CONCRETE POSITIONS ON ANY SPECIFIC LOS ISSUES.

7. GSL HOPES TO GET AGREEMENT ON COLOMBO AS NEXT VENUE FOR NAC SUMMIT. INVITATION WAS ISSUED AT KABUL PREPARATORY MEETING LAST MAY AND GSL BELIEVES NO OTHER OFFER HAS BEEN

PUT FORWARD.

GSL HOPES PROPOSAL WILL BE DISCUSSED AT
FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 2 AND THEN BE
FORMALLY ACCEPTED DURING SUMMIT.

GDS

VAN HOLLEN

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